IX. *A Letter from Mr.* Richard Hopton *to Mr.* John Batchelor; *Giving an Account of the Eruption of a Burning Spring at* Broſeley *in* Shropſhire. *Communicated by Dr.* William Gibbons, *Fellow of the College of Phyſicians.*

September 18. 1711.

SIR,

I Have according to promiſe here ſent an Account of the famous boyling Well at *Broſeley* near *Wenlock* in the County of *Salop*, diſcovered about *June*, 1711.

It was firſt found out by a terrible uncommon Noiſe in the Night (about two Nights after a remarkable Day of Thunder:) The Noiſe was ſo very great, that it awaked ſeveral People in their Beds, that liv'd hard by; who being willing to be ſatisfy'd what it was, roſe up from their Beds; and coming to a boggy Place under a little Hill about 200 Yards off the River *Severn*, perceiv'd a mighty rumbling and ſhaking in the Earth, and a little Boyling up of Water through the Graſs. They took a Spade, and digging up ſome part of the Earth, immediately the Water flew up a great Height, and a Candle that was in their Hand ſet it on Fire.

To prevent the Spring being deſtroyed, there's an Iron Ciſtern plac'd about it, with a Cover upon it to be lock'd, and a Hole in the middle thereof, that any who come may ſee the Water through. If you put a lighted Candle or any thing of Fire to this Hole, the Water immediately takes Fire and burns like Spirit of Wine, or Brandy, and continues ſo as long as you keep the Air from

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from it; but by taking up the Cover of the Ciſtern, it quickly goes out. The heat of this Fire much exceeds the heat of any Fire I ever ſaw, and ſeems to have more than ordinary fierceneſs with it.

Some People out of Curioſity, after they have ſet the Water on Fire, have put a Kettle of Water over the Ciſtern, and in it Green Peas, or a Joint of Meat, and boyled it much ſooner than over any artificial Fire that can be made. If you put Green Boughs, or any thing elſe that will burn upon it, it preſently conſumes them to Aſhes. The Water of itſelf is as cold as any Water I ever felt; And what is remarkable, as ſoon as ever the Fire is out, if you put your Hands into it, it feels as cold as if there had been no ſuch thing as Fire near it. It ſtill continues boyling up with a conſiderable Noiſe; and is viſited by almoſt all that hear of it; and is look'd upon to be as great a rarity as the World affords.

R. HOPTON.

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